(c) to (g) State Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had requested for providing broad gauge link to Porbandar and Bedi Ports. It was advised that connectivity to Porbandar Port will be financially unviable and can be built by the Port as a private siding. As regards Bedi Port, GMB had carried out certain studies and the report is submitted to Ministry of Railways.

Facilities to disabled

†2693. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had directed his Ministry by issuing a notice that proper facilities should be provided to the disabled during rail journey and at railway stations;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the facilities Government propose to provide to the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Honourable Delhi High Court wherein Ministry of Railways is one of the respondents.

(b) In pursuance of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation), Act, 1995, Railways have provided the following seven short-term facilities at 3000 stations comprising all 'A' category stations and few 'B' category stations. These facilities have been planned for remaining 'B' category stations also.

1. Standard ramp for Barrier free entry,
2. Earmarking parking lots for vehicles used by Disabled Persons,
3. Non-shppery walkway,
4. Signage,
5. Toilets,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

6. Water taps suitable for needs of handicapped person,

7. "May I Help You" Booth,

Besides, wheel chairs have been provided at important stations.

Regarding inter platform connectivity, trolley paths have been provided at the end of the platforms of important stations which have been authorized for use by handicapped persons on wheel chairs with escorts.

Concessions in fares are granted to four categories of disabilities.

(1) Orthopaedically Handicapped/Paraplegic,

(2) Mentally Retarded,

(3) Blind persons- completly blind,

(4) Totally Deaf and Dumb and both afflictions together.

In addition to the above concession in single journey 50% concession in first and second class season ticket fare is also admissible to above categories of disabled people.

A Reservation Quota of two sleeper class berths has been earmarked in all trains running on non-suburban sections for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The persons accompanying the handicapped person as escort are also allotted the berth out of this quota.

Indian Railways are manufacturing certain passenger coaches, which have a separate compartment specially designed for wheel chair borne passengers. These compartments have facilities like wider door-way,' aisle and knee space to permit easy movement of wheel chair, wider berths, toilet adapted to needs of such passengers, arrangements for securing wheel chairs during the journey etc.

(c) (i) The Railways are working to provide at least one non-AC Passenger Coach which will have a separate compartment for wheel chair borne passengers in every Mail/Express Trains within a period of two years.

(ii) The following 19 major stations all over Indian Railways will be developed into world class stations which will be provided with lift/escalators for facilitating inter-platform transfer:-

1 Pune	2 Carnac Bunder, Mumbai	3 Howrah
4 Lucknow	5 Anand Vihar, Delhi	6 Bijwasan, Delhi
7 Amritsar	8 Chandigarh	9 New Delhi
10 Varanasi	11 Chennai	12 Patna
13 Secunderabad	14 Thiruvanthapuram	15 Ahmedabad
16 -Bhubaneswar	17 Mathura	18 Bangalore
19 Bhopal		

Selling of railway tickets

†2694.SHRIDIUP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

a) the value of tickets in rupees which were sold from railway booking counters in each zone during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06, year-wise;

(b) the value of tickets in rupees which were sold each year, class-wise;

(c) the number of passengers apprehended for travelling illegally and without ticket in every zone each year during these years; and

(d) the details of district headquarters which have round the clock arrangements for selling tickets in addition to zonal headquarters in each railway zone, where tickets are sold round the clock, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. VELU):(a) and(b) The value of tickets in rupees (earnings on originating basis) which were sold from railway booking counters in each zone, class-wise and year-wise, for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 is given below: -